SHRIMATI MAHENDRA KUMARI:
KUMARI DIPIKA CHIKHLIA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have since worked out a scheme to guarantee employment to the agricultural labour in certain selected drought prone areas and in areas with acute problem of rural unemployment; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The question does not arise.

[*Translation*]

Landless Farmers in Maharashtra

4359. SHRI VILASRAO NAGNATHRAO GUNDEWAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the estimated number of landless farmers in Maharashtra;

(b) whether the Government have any scheme to provide land to these farmers;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by when the land is likely to be provided to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) Information on number of landless farmers in Maharashtra is not collected. However, according to the provisional results of 1991 Census the number of agricultural labourers in Maharashtra is 8,311,402.

(b) to (d). Land is being distributed to the eligible beneficiaries under the land reforms measures in the States. In addition, the activity of land purchase and its distribution to the IRDP target group landless families is now a permissible activity under th Integrated Rural Development Programme. In the last Chief Ministers' Conference held on 4th -5th October, 1991, it was decided that ceiling surplus land which have been taken possession of by the State Government should be distributed amongst eligible rural poor by 31st march, 1992.

[*English*]

Agricultural Marketing Boards Act.

4360. SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESWARI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to enact an All India Agricultural Marketing Boards Act to end the exploitation of farmers in the county;

(b) if so, the time by when a decision is likely to be taken; and

(c) the extent to which it is likely to help the poor farmers in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI UTTAMBHAI H. PATEL): (a) to (c). The State Governments are empowered to legislate in this matter and most of the States have enacted the legislation. The Central Government does not propose a Central legislation, but is persuading the State Governments to enforce the provisions of the Acts effectively where they are alreadys in existence, and make the enactment where it does not exist.